Demands for Supplementary Grants.

II—Agriculture and Panchayats—T. A.—Rs. 600.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 600 under II A.—I. Establishment—Travelling Allowance.

This additional grant is for meeting the travelling expenses of the five non-official members of the Rural Reconstruction Committee for attending the meetings of the Committee and for their journeys in connection with collection of evidence from villages.

Since Government Orders appointing the Committee were passed at the close of 1105 this expenditure could not be anticipated at the time of the Budget and therefore no provision could be made.

I request the House may be pleased to grant the additional allotment applied for.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—On a point of information. How much money was allotted for T. A. in the Budget?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—No amount.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Was not the order passed by the Diwan long before the Budget was prepared?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—It was only during the Budget Session.

Motion No. 1.

Mr. A. K. Kunhu Moideen.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 600—under II—Agriculture and Panchayats—T. A. by Re. 1.*

As the Member was then absent his motion was considered withdrawn.

Motion No. 2.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 600—under II—Agriculture and Panchayats—T. A. by Re. 1.*

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—Sir, I have tabled this token cut just to bring home to the notice of the Government that in rural areas, though Ayurvedic Vaidyasalas have been established and some of them are in existence for the past ten years the allotments given to them are invariably six hundred rupees per year. All the subjects of the State in rural areas first go to the Ayurvedic Vaidyasalas for their treatment and only when they find that impracticable they go to the Allopathic dispensaries. So naturally they must get more allotment. You will see more patients going to the Ayurvedic dispensaries, but the poor allotment of six hundred rupees is too small for

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all these purposes. In the case of Allopathic dispensaries, though they were established only two years ago the allotment of six hundred rupees has been raised to 720 rupees. So consistent with the feelings of the subjects of the State, I bring to your notice that the allotment for the Ayurvedic Vaidyasalas should be increased considerably. Then, further, there are no buildings other than hired buildings to locate these Vaidyasalas. So buildings may be made to give treatment for in-patients also. The services should be made pensionable and the Departmental Head should have a seat in the Council as the Medical Member. I want to know the views of the Government on the subject.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—There has not been any serious complaint from Ayurvedic Vaidyasalas that the allotment for medicines has been inadequate. Now and then report is received without any definite information as to the number of patients treated and the quantity of medicines required. I find, as a matter of fact, that even after giving medicines to poor patients in some Vaidyasalas, some medicines are sold and the amounts are credited to Government. If there is a real complaint of the nature, there is no reason why some more amount should not be allowed for medicine. As to the site of the Dispensaries as the Hon'ble Member points out, it may be pointed out that the Vaidyasalas are invariably held in hired buildings. We do not ordinarily make any special grant for buildings.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—I do not press the motion.

The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 3.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 600—under II—Agriculture and Panchayat—T.* A.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I rise to move for the omission of the allotment under II—Agriculture and Panchayats—T. A. As a Member of the Rural Reconstruction Committee it looks, Sir, awkward that I should stand here and move for the total omissionof this grant. But I have to move it upon a principle and that you would see, Sir, from the statements placed on the table by the Hon'ble Member for Finance that three lakhs sixty three thousand nine hundred and nine rupees demanded under Agriculture and Panchayats was refused by this House and it was restored by the Diwan under the powers conferred on him under section 16 (8). We had the painful necessity of withholding our consent from any expenditure by Government during the last Budget Session upon the principle that the Government was not going along the lines and wishes of the popular representatives of this House. We had given the Government three years ago a warning by raising a token cut motion on the expenditure connected with the Legislative Council House and

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pointed out to the Government that the Legislative Council House was not being allowed to function as it ought to be and as we wish it to be. Then we came forward with a cut on the General Administration to awaken the Government. But, alas, that also failed. And then we give the Government ample information in advance that it was the intention at the time when that General Administration cut was being moved that all the demands, the whole budget itself, must be thrown out by the House. But out of deference to the wishes of the elder Members of our Progressive Party we refrained from doing that and we contented ourselves by carrying only that one cut on the Administration and had to stand the abuse of our junior Members in the Party. But we stood all that. Yet the Government would not move and we had to go to the painful necessity of combining effectively to throw out the budget. And Sir, you would see in this House, Members drawn from various sections and various elements, following different religions, belonging to different races and different systems of culture, all combining together and in the words of the Ex-Diwan, that was a valuable right. I do not see any right there! Such an effective combination was demonstrated at the last budget time to throw out a good number of demands in the budget. This is from the statement of the Diwan from the Presidential Chair and he asks, is this not a substantial and valuable right? I turn round and say, it is not a right. Sir, is it not a valuable achievement in the political field of Cochin, that these various elements have combined together? If the Government would not respect the combined wishes of these elements then we can do nothing further! It is only upon that principle that I have tabled this total cut. Having refused that grant in *toto*, what justification have we to take a different view? We have only one justification to grant the allotment now asked for. We have a new Diwan who will examine all these things afresh and we hope, Sir, that if the Government would examine our demands which have been tabled in this House and much discussed we are prepared to come to a change in the policy that we adopt. It is not yet time to see how the Government under you would move and it is improper on our part to withdraw all on a sudden our support to carry on the administration at once. We want to see how far the change in the personnel of the Government would affect the policy and how it would also change; and therefore I would ask your permission to make this total cut motion into a token cut of one rupee to raise a discussion in this House.

Now I come to the merit. This Rural Reconstruction Scheme was mooted in this Council when it sat for the first time. Now it is the third year of its life and in the third year

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of its life we get a Committee constituted by Government, but Government have done one good thing and that is that it has made it a Government Committee, so that the Committee will continue its labours even though the Members of that Committee may or may not return to this House at the next election. Therefore, it is an item of very necessary expenditure and I would add only two words more. I have on the back of my cut motion more or less given an intimation to the Government that the affair is proceeding very slowly. Burdened as the Agricultural Superintendent is, with his own legitimate Department and burdened also with the administration of the Panchayat, for which this House has been pressing for a separate officer, he is now burdened with the scheme of the Rural Reconstruction, as its President as well. Then indeed the work of the Rural Reconstruction Committee will go very slow. Up to this we have had only one meeting which was a preliminary meeting and the questionaires have been going round and I know that the Agricultural Superintendent has his heart in the scheme and he wishes to see that the rural parts are provided with all the amenities that they stand in need of, and this Committee has also been burdened with the investigation of roads and communications as well as the welfare of cattle in the State. Now it is a very important Committee that has to go into questions affecting the prosperity of the people at large and Cochin is an agricultural country mainly and these questions, if it is to be adequately, properly and speedily tackled, it requires a change in the Presidentship of it and I would urge the Government to consider that aspect of the matter, whether it will not be possible for the Government to put in a non-official as President of the Committee and get through the work as speedily as they can.

Sir, before I sit down, as this is the first opportunity, I would extend to you a warm welcome on behalf of our Party—the Progressive Party of Cocoin—and I hope that you will let all Cochin know yours, the message cheering, that the time is nearing, which shall see all men free, nepotism checked (*Hear, hear*) all well-fed, cleanly clothed and decently housed in our little State of Cochin. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I would like to know whether the total cut has been converted into a token cut.

President.—It may be converted into a token motion.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I second the motion.

Motion put and negatived.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Poll, Sir.

The point is that we want a change in the Presidentship of the Committee. We want a non-official President for the Rural

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Reconstruction Committee, so that the work may be done speedily. I do not want to divide the House upon any other question. The question is another President may be appointed because the Agricultural Superintendent is burdened with his other duties.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—A non-official President may be appointed instead of the Agricultural Superintendent. It has a direct bearing upon the subject.

President.—But he spoke of other matters in the speech.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—But it is the Travelling Allowance of the Members. The point at issue is that the Chairman of the Rural Reconstruction Committee must be a non-official.

Rama Varmha Tampuran—May I speak a few words on the point newly raised by the Member?

President.—No.

The House divided. Ayes 11 and Noes 13.

Ayes.	Noes.
1. Mr. K. J. Antony.	1. Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.
2. Mr. K. Ayyappan.	2. ,, U. Kandar Menon.
3. Dr. A. G. Menon.	3. ,, V. K. Kochunni Menon.
4. Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar	4. ,, T. K. Krishna Menon,
5. ,, K. Mohammed Seethi.	5. ,, T. M. Krishna Menon.
6. ,, P. Krishna Menon.	6. ,, K. Krishna Pisharodi.
7. ,, T. K. Nayar.	7. ,, T. S. Narayana Ayyar.
8. ,, P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.	8. ,, P. Nilakanta Menon.
9. ,, T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.	9. Rama Varmha Tampuran.
10. ,, M. K. Raman.	10. Mr. I. Raman Menon.
11. ,, A. B. Salem.	11. ,, K. Ramunni Menon.
	12. Dr. E. A. Veigas.
	13. Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.

The motion was negatived.

Motion No. 4.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 600 under II—Agriculture and Panchayats—T. A.*

Mr. P Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I have tabled this cut motion to condemn the policy of the Government in keeping the two Departments of Agriculture and Panchayats under one and the same officer. The Panchayat Department of this State is a sufficiently old institution. No one would dare call it an infant, judging from the number of years of its existence. But from its achievements one has to concede that it is even worse than an infant. This may be considered to be not in its infant stage, but in its embryo stage. The failure on the Panchayat Department to achieve those useful things that it stands for cannot certainly be placed upon the poor Panchayatdars. They are persons who are after all novices in the art of local administration. They require at this period a proper

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guidance of an efficient hand who can devote all his time for this purpose. (*Hear, hear*). But what we find in this State to-day is that this most useful institution is placed under the care of an officer who is to look after this most useful institution as well as another institution which is perhaps more important than the Panchayats, namely, the Agricultural Department. These two institutions are both placed under a double faced officer who is, I must say, overworked. (*Hear, hear*). We have in the Agricultural Superintendent an officer who is eminently qualified in matters agricultural. If the agricultural policy of the State is to have the full benefit of his extensive studies in matters agricultural, he must be allowed to devote all his attention to that Department and that Department alone. (*Hear, hear*). He is now in the position of an individual who has got two mistresses to please with the evident result that neither the one nor the other is as a matter of fact pleased. Complaints when made to the Government regarding the way in which Panchayats are administered the answer given from the Government side is often that the Panchayat Superintendent is overworked on the agricultural side and hence he has not got the opportunity to meet the requirements of the Panchayat Department and *vice versa*. The result is that both departments stand more or less condemned in the eyes of the people in general in the State as well as outside the State. The Panchayat Department has come in for a good deal of criticism in this House, and when the Special Finance Committee was sitting, the answer given by the Government when this point was urged was that the matter will be looked into when the orders are passed on the recommendations of the Special Finance Committee. The Special Finance Committee in very clear terms recommended the separation of these two departments and strongly urged the necessity for placing these two departments under two heads and the commitments then made by the Government made one believe that, with the passing of the orders on the recommendations sure as anything we will have the separation of these departments. And what did we find in Meenam last when orders were passed at long last? We find a remedy that was curious to think of. The success and the proper administration of the two departments was found to be achieved by raising the emoluments of the officer in charge, and also by giving him a few assistants. From the words used in the order it is certainly not convincing. It is very difficult to see how an officer getting Rs. 400 will, when his pay is raised to Rs. 600, be able to improve the departments under him. (*Hear, hear*). The difficulty was only one of time. He had no time to look after the two departments. And with the assistants that

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are now given to him it will not be possible to improve the administration of the Panchayats. Therefore, with a view to condemn the action of the Government, in even now keeping the two departments under one and the same officer I have tabled this motion. In considering this motion I would request at least this section of the House to spend a thought over the matter and vote as you deem fit under the circumstances. With your leave, Sir, I may be permitted to convert this total cut into a token motion.

President.—It may be converted into a token motion.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I beg to second this token motion. Ever since the inauguration of this Council, during the last six years, this question of the separation of the Agricultural from the Panchayat Department, came up before the House in one form or other and every time the non-officials unanimously voted for immediate separation. But the Government flouted their opinion repeatedly and would never listen to our words here. There is absolute necessity for the separation. It has already been pointed out that the administration of the Panchayat Department is most inefficient; we find many things wanting there. To speak of a few, Sir, I may point out the extraordinary delay caused in the matter of check-measuring works done under the Panchayats. Then again, the Panchayat elections are conducted most unsatisfactorily and in an irresponsible fashion. Election petitions and election disputes follow immediately on every election. Again, Sir, what is to be said about great pendency of files in the Office of the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats? Tons of these files relate to Panchayat matters which have to be looked into at once. It takes years before these files are disposed. Therefore, Sir, we find that in the practical working of the Panchayat Department nothing is done properly and in time. This is not an exaggeration. Our self-governing institutions like the Panchayats, where the rural population have to manage their own affairs, are very much neglected by the Government. Instead of training the people to manage their own affairs properly and well, they are taught laziness and an inefficient way of management. The Special Finance Committee took up this matter and they settled that the Panchayats ought to be separated. We, the non-officials, held the same view and pressed the matter in this House. It was expected that the Government concerned would see that the separation was effected at once. But to our extreme surprise and disappointment we find the reverse was the effect. Therefore, Sir, during the last Budget Session the matter was mooted again with all the vigour we were capable of and then the Hon'ble the Secretary to the Diwan said that the Government

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did not feel any necessity for the separation of the Panchayats. He said that the present officer, the Agricultural Superintendent is paid a first class officer's pay and therefore it would be unfair to deprive him of his control over the Panchayats. That he had extra time left after the management of the Agricultural Department and that he would not have sufficient work if the administration of the Panchayats is taken off, from his hands. Are these valid grounds, Sir, to reject our opinion unanimously expressed before this House? If you are paying him Rs. 600, it is not our fault. You ought not have paid him so much.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—That is not the whole thing that I said.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I shall come to the 2nd part also of your answer. Let me first deal with the first part. The big salary of the officer and his extra time stand in the way. With his monthly huge salary and with all his extra time our Panchayat Department is inefficiently managed. Who asked you to pay such a huge salary to him if he has not got sufficient work in his own field? Then, No. 2. The Hon'ble Member also suggested that the appointment of two officers called Panchayat Inspectors would remedy the evil. I beg to suggest Sir, that this is not a real solution. What we really require is an able central machinery, a prompt and efficient head, to manage the affairs of all the Panchayats. The Panchayat Inspector, who may be going about inspecting, who is only something like an Overseer in the Public Works Department, serves as an instrument, through whose medium, the Head may get orders executed. Of course that is also needed and that will be an additional help, no doubt. But efficiency in the central machinery, from where all orders are issued, is what is primarily required. The duty of these Inspectors is only to see that the orders passed by the central executive, are properly carried out. But then it is the central machinery that is responsible for setting matters right everywhere. Therefore the appointment of two Panchayat Inspectors to look after the details, would not remedy the evil which is existing now in the whole system. Sir, unless and until this Panchayat Department is separated from Agriculture and put under an able officer who will be responsible for prompt and powerful action in every matter, I submit the Panchayats are rendered absolutely useless and they cease to serve the interests of the people of the rural area. By your payment of a huge sum by way of salary to the Agricultural Superintendent and by the increase in the number of subordinates, this evil can never be remedied. Therefore I once more beg

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leave to request that the big salary paid to the Agricultural Superintendent may not be looked upon as a valid ground for the non-separation of the Department. (*Hear, hear*).

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—For the information of the House I may say that this question has been taken up for re-consideration by the Government. The financial aspect of the question is being considered and orders will be issued.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—When? The time also may be mentioned.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I cannot give the exact date. It will be done as early as possible.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Years or months?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—That is all what I can say—the matter is being reconsidered.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

President.—Then the motion is withdrawn.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—We may not be willing to allow the Member to withdraw the motion. The sense of the House has to be taken.

President.—The question before the House is whether Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan has the leave of the House to withdraw his motion.

The motion was withdrawn with leave of the House.

Demand put and was granted.

(2) II.—Agriculture and Panchayats—7—Cocoanut Station—Rs. 400.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 400 under—II—A 7—Cocoanut Station —Casual Labour. The allotment sanctioned for the Cocoanut Station this year is Rs. 2,950, of which Rs. 300 is for expenditure on account of casual labour charges.

The posts of the 3 servants attached to the Cocoanut Station Establishment (2 servants of Rs. 10 each and one on Rs. 12) had to be abolished as a result of the orders passed by Government on the Special Finance Committee's Report. These servants were thrown out of service at the end of last year. As these servants were attending to the routine work of the Farm, the work done by them has now to be got done by casual labour. The allotment for casual labour is only Rs. 300. This amount is found insufficient to meet the expenditure and there is no scope for any transfer from other items in the allotment for Cocoanut Station.

I request that the House may be pleased to grant the additional allotment of Rs. 400.

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